

ARE VERY FOND OF DANCING

Darliners Love to Indulge in Terpsichorean Dissipations.

THIS YEAR'S BALL SEASON.

Actors and Actresses Ridicule the Prussian Bureaucrats in a Clever Way. A Bit of Tyrol in Berlin. A Swell Affair. The Alpine Club Hall.

(Special Berlin (Germany) Letter.) Berlin isn't Paris, and there never was any Jardin Mabille nor any Clossier des Lias there, but in point of dancing, I think, the German capital beats the French. This year's ball season especially, short though it was, brought an immense number of terpsichorean dissipations, and among them there were a few that deserve some mention.

There is an ancient law on the statute books in Prussia, dating from the time when actors and opera singers were strolling about the country and, by dint of "one-night stands," eking out



ENTRANCE TO ALPINE CLUB HALL.

a miserable and precarious livelihood. This law classifies stage folk with domestic servants, with the "Gesinde," and even vouchsafes to their boss, the owner of the theater or chief of the troop, the right of "manual correction," i. e. of slapping the members in the face and administering other mild forms of personal chastisement. Well, about last New Year the president of the police in Berlin, Baron von Richtofen, finding that a provincial court in a suit against a theatrical manager had reasserted this old law and applied to it the case in hand, issued a decree calling public attention to the fact that actors and actresses, from the prima donna to the weakest old intrigante, were "Gesinde" and, as such, amenable to the rules and regulations in such case made and provided.

The press ridiculed the order; the "profess" first laughed at it, then waxed wrathful and held indignation meetings; the public wondered, smiled and said nothing. The order was not rescinded. It remains nominally in force to-day, although in "innocuous desuetude," I suspect.

Recently the whole theatrical profession in Berlin gave a ball at the Kaiserhof, the most aristocratic hotel in town, which they styled "Gesinde ball," and at which everybody present appeared in the costume of a member of the servant class. It had been arranged by half a dozen of the daintiest and most popular actresses, including Reichenhofer, Jenny Gross and Else Lehmann, and it was a stunning success. Satirically, humorously and by the law of contrast the hundreds of jolly Theatrical disciples demonstrated that it is folly to class them in the year 1895 with the kitchen maid or the valet. The cortices of Berlin were present, of course, and a score of the most popular writers, such as Stinde and Blumenthal and Ludemann, and a few nifty literary triflers, written for the occasion, were performed. But the chief joke of the evening was, of course, the costuming. The very flower of the profession, both male and female, disported themselves as nurses and cooks, chambermaids and body servants, coachmen and footmen and ushers, porters and butlers, and imagination had lent them wings for devising new classes of domestic



TYROLESE NATIONAL DANCE.

sprites. The fact that some 20,000 marks were added to the pension fund for superannuated actors shows that, financially as well, the affair was a success.

Another very odd and original ball occurred on the selfsame night. It was given by the Berlin-section of the Austro-German Alpine club at the Philharmonic building, and of its kind it was, perhaps, even more enjoyable. The whole interior of the huge building had been transformed into a ball-

Alpine country. The immense ballroom (where on other nights the finest concerts in the capital are performed) had been changed into a landscape near Meran, Tyrol, and the festival celebrated there was a counterfeit of that of the victuaries of grape-buried Meran, with gayly-decorated village streets on the main floor, and glistening glaciers in the background. A Meran band of drummers and fifiers played the Passer march, the same which led Andreas Hofer and his Tyroleans into battle against the French in 1809; and everybody was an Alpine boy or lass for the time being. The costumes worn by the participants were genuine, as most of those present were members of the Alpine club and had used those same "duds" before in climbing steep paths high up in the Bavarian or Tyrolean mountains during recent summers, and enough of the natives had been imported from their far-away homes to complete the illusion. There were a band of yodlers, a number of zither players, a half dozen of expert dancers of the "Schulplattl," and a whole score of villagers from the Vintschgau in the Tyrol to perform the famous "Bundel" dance around the May pole. The wine rooms and beer cellars were fitted up to match, and once past the grim barrier at the entrance gate, where Austrian revenue officers sat and collected tribute, the visitor was not in Berlin, but in some Alpine village, high up and away from the busy world.

To talk of the subscription ball at the Royal opera house at this late day seems superfluous, for this most resplendent and aristocratic of all private balls given occurs regularly once every year during the carnival time. Suffice it to say that it was more brilliant and glorious of diamonds, colors and handsome women and stately men than ever, and the emperor strolling up and down among the immense crowd for upward of an hour, with his train of glittering aides and flashing cuirassiers, added not immaterially to the picture. For it was a picture—not a ball. Although the space given up was that of the whole opera house, holding many thousands, and although the price of admission is purposely fixed rather high, the pressure was so enormous as to make dancing quite impossible.

From this ball to those which, just now, engage the special attention of the police, is quite a step, but it has to be made in order to complete the survey. There are, it is true, a large number of decent and respectable public ballrooms in Berlin, like the Artushof, where the girls or wives of the small middle classes, the mechanics and the shopkeepers, now and then have a hop with their husbands, sweethearts and relatives, where clubs or societies meet and have a good time in a slow, old-fashioned way. There are cheaper places, still well-behaved enough, where the large array of servant girls and cooks, of coachmen and gardeners, meet and dance, where young soldiers and old soldiers show themselves in all their martial splendor with their best girls. But these places have not been interfered with by the police. The category which, of late, has been put under police surveillance and of which some at least have been suppressed and others restricted, is the one where vice



BELLE OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE DANCE.

In its most alluring garb has been stalking rampant for months and years.

The Blumensale (flower balls) is a good specimen of this latter kind. It was a month ago that a sedate old aristocrat, member of the reichester and owner of large estates in the eastern provinces of the monarchy, one evening after a fine dinner at Dressel's allowed himself to be lured to this place by a couple of gay young diplomats who had shared the meal with him. Next morning the old gentleman was dead, and the last penny of a large sum he had had upon him was gone. There had been an orgy in one of the boxes, and a couple of the handsomest members of the demi-monde were arrested, but soon let go for want of proof. This incident in metropolitan life, an incident which had often occurred before, induced the police to subject those Blumensale and similar establishments to a more rigorous supervision. At present they are forced to close at 2 a. m., and, since the regular customers of these places, both men and women, as a rule, only begin to show up at midnight, this "early-closing order" means the financial ruin of the owners unless it be rescinded before long. The Blumensale are the acme of material elegance, and none but persons in full ball costume are allowed on the floor, while nothing but champagne at six dollars a bottle is served by the waiters. In point of dash and "go," however, they do not equal similar establishments in Paris.

WOLF VON SCHREIBER. Catarrh originates in scrofula taint. P. P. P. purifies the blood; and thus permanently cures catarrh.

ABOUT LAWS OF TEMPESTS

Influence of the Earth's Motion on the Direction of Winds.

PARALLEL OF A RAILWAY TRAIN.

Owing to the Rotation of the Earth South Winds, for instance, will Become Southwest. The Different Velocity at the Equator and the Poles.

Suppose a railroad train at first stationary, says the Chautauquan. A traveler fires a shot toward some exterior object; it will require, say, two seconds for the ball to reach the object. Imagine next the train moving at the rate of thirty feet a second. The traveler aims at the object the instant he is opposite it; but the ball, in addition to the impulsion which he has communicated to it, preserves the general movement of the train, which in two seconds makes it travel laterally sixty feet. It will strike then at some distance beyond the object.

The rotation of the earth produces an effect of the same kind upon movements which occur on its surface. All the points of the globe turn together from the west to the east in twenty-four hours, but they all have in reality different rates of velocity according to the position which they occupy. At the poles the velocity is nothing; it increases regularly to the equator, where it reaches the enormous rate of 1,520 feet a second.

Let us take for consideration two places in our country (France)—Paris and Dunkirk. While the Parisian, affected by the movement of the earth, passes through about 1,000 feet, the inhabitant of Dunkirk travels only about 963 feet.

Let us imagine now at Paris a wind from the south that is blowing towards Dunkirk, which is almost directly north from Paris. As Paris moves from west to east at the rate of thirty-seven feet a second faster than does Dunkirk, the wind from the south at Paris will be like the ball fired from the moving train; it will be deviated towards the east, that is, towards its right. From being a south wind, which it was at Paris, it will become a southwest wind and it will reach Liege or Cologne instead of Dunkirk, which it would have reached had the earth been motionless. Thus all winds are turned from their first direction, and in the northern hemisphere this deviation is always toward the right, while in the southern hemisphere it is toward the left.

Diamond Cutters Are Watched. Not only is diamond cutting not a specially high paid occupation, but it is one involving a most humiliating system of espionage to the worker. Each man is held strictly to account for the stones he receives on going to work in the morning, and the count has to be carefully taken when the unfinished work is turned in at night to be locked up in a safe against the return of the workmen the next day. The possibilities of theft are great, though a dishonest workman knows that an attempt to dispose of an unfinished stone would bring suspicion upon him wherever the attempt was made.

Aluminum in Shipbuilding. Aluminum launches are to be tried in the French navy on a large scale. An order for 42,000 kilograms of the metal has been given to the Aluminum company at Neuhausen, Switzerland, which is at present the largest manufacturer of the metal in the world, though the Pittsburgh company is rapidly catching up with it.



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